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(DOUGLAS)

WASHINGTON--FOR THE SECOND TIME, AN UNENTHUSIASTIC HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE HAS FAILED TO MEET A DEADLINE FOR SAYING WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT CHARGES THAT JUSTICE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS ABUSED HIS POSITION AND SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE SUPREME COURT.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE WAS SUPPOSED TO REACH RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING IMPEACHMENT CHARGES YESTERDAY, BUT FAILED TO MAKE A REPORT, AND INDICATIONS WERE IT WAS NOWHERE NEAR READY TO DO SO.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAD BEEN WORKING UNDER A SECOND 60-DAY TIME ALLOTMENT FROM ITS PARENT JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AFTER FAILING TO REPORT DURING THE FIRST TIME PERIOD.

A GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN IS ATTEMPTING TO HAVE DOUGLAS REMOVED FROM OFFICE ON A VARIETY OF CHARGES INVOLVING ALLEGED IMPROPER CONDUCT.

AS LATE AS YESTERDAY, THE DAY IT WAS SUPPOSED TO REPORT, THE SUBCOMMITTEE WAS STILL RECEIVING LEGAL BRIEFS. ONE WAS FROM DOUGLAS' LAWYER, SIMON H. RIFKIND, WHO WAS RESPONDING TO A SUBCOMMITTEE REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IN THE CASE.

RIFKIND SAID THE SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD DROP IMMEDIATELY WHATEVER CHARGES IT FINDS EITHER FRIVOLOUS OR NON-IMPEACHABLE, EVEN IF THEY WERE TRUE, SUCH AS NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS ABOUT DOUGLAS' VARIOUS WRITINGS, INCLUDING A RECENT BOOK CALLED "POINTS OF REBELLION."

BUT HE SAID IT WOULD BE PROPER FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARINGS ON CHARGES THAT DOUGLAS MAINTAINED AN IMPROPER RELATION WITH THE ALBERT PARVIN FOUNDATION, THAT HE INTERVENED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON BEHALF OF PERSONS SEEKING GAMBLING CONCESSIONS, AND THAT HE WAS A PERSONAL ASSOCIATE OF ALLEGED UNDERWORLD FIGURES.

"EACH OF THESE ALLEGATIONS, WHILE DEMONSTRABLY FALSE, IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO FACT-FINDING," RIFKIND SAID.

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These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.

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